

World Cup 2010 News Summary

June 12-13, 2010

A selection of World Cup 2010 highlights from the media

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Police on 'High Alert' as Argentine Fans Arrive for World Cup -- Pretoria News Weekend reported on 12 June that 11 Argentinean "barra bravas" fans have been deported on arrival. The report stated that the "Argentinean fans, known more for their hooliganism than anything else, arrived this week to make Pretoria's Christian Progressive College their base for the duration of the tournament. At least 60 are here and 300 more are expected." Police spokesperson Brigadier Sally de Beer said "Intelligence indicated that these persons would commit acts of public disorder, engage in acts of violence, and provoke conflict with certain fans of opponent teams and other groups from Argentina during the World Cup."

South Africa Refuses Entry to 12th Suspected Soccer 'Hooligan' -- SAPA reported on 12 June that the twelfth suspected football hooligan, a British male, has been refused entry at the OR Tambo International airport. Police spokesperson Sally de Beer said the "individual has a history of inciting racially motivated violence at sporting events. It was thus decided that he would pose a threat to public order and that he should be prohibited from entering South Africa." She added that "airport and immigration officials, reacting to information received from the Crime Intelligence Division, intercepted and detained him."

Police Take Over Security Arrangements in Port Elizabeth Stadium -- e News Channel reported on 12 June that the police filed a report recently saying that the security company tasked with safety at the Port Elizabeth stadium is unable to do their job. FIFA then asked the security company to take care of security at the fan park instead. Police have now taken over security here at Nelson Mandela Bay stadium and there is a "very strong police presence both within the stands as well as outside of the stadium ensuring that the safety of players and fans alike are ensured."

South Africa: Three Sentenced For Robbery of Foreign Journalists -- SAPA reported on 12 June that the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) said that three men have been sentenced for the armed robbery of three foreign journalists in Magaliesburg. In a statement, national police commissioner General Bheki Cele and police minister Nathi Mthethwa said they were "pleased" and "satisfied" with the work of the police and the NPA. "I am very pleased that the system put in place between the SAPS and the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) to deal with offences relating to the World Cup quickly has proved to be effective," Cele said. "It took police no more than 24 hours to arrest these lunatic scoundrels. It further took the justice department no more than 48 hours to sentence them" Mthethwa said.

Thieves Steal Cash From Uruguay World Cup Soccer Team -- SAPA reported on 12 June that according to police, thieves stole cash from the hotel rooms of the Uruguay soccer team while they were playing a World Cup match against France in Cape Town on 11 June. However, police spokesperson Andre Trau said the Uruguayan declined to open a case. "We are aware of the incident. We went there but no case was opened. The players declined to press charges," said Trau.

British Police in South Africa To Support RSA Counterparts -- On 12 June at 1535 GMT e News Channel reporter Roby Kriel interviewed Britain's "top cop" on the ground in South Africa assistant chief constable Andy Holt. According to Holt the British police have a "range of specialists" here to assist the South African police in policing English supporters. Holt said they have, for example, an experienced police commander who will help the South African police commander interpret the behavior of England fans, they have "spotters" who can speak to their supporters and point out potential troublemakers to South African police.

Report Details Johannesburg's Transport 'Teething Problems' Ahead of Opener -- The Saturday Star Online reported on 12 June that "teething problems" with some of Johannesburg transport services nearly caused half the 94,500 soccer fans to miss the World Cup opening ceremony. The report stated that "Park and Ride services were slow and congested and the city's free trains were delayed, BRT services ran smoothly, getting to Soccer City within 10 minutes." As a result of transport problem there were "long queues with spectators waiting up to an hour to be seated" in the venue. Although "most fans, though frustrated at first, said they understood that it was just first-time teething problems."

Cell Phone Service Providers Reportedly Ready To Handle Influx of Calls -- Saturday Star Online reported on 12 June that South Africa's communication authority, the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa, believes the country's three big cellular operators are ready to deal with the surge in users during the World Cup. South Africa's cellular user database of 50 million is expected to receive an injection of over 600 000 SIM cards, issued to foreigners visiting the country for the World Cup. According to the report, some cell phone users lodged grievances this week on internet sites complaining of dropped calls or not being able to make or receive calls.

Spokesperson Says First Cape Town Match Went Smoothly, No Security Glitches -- SAPA reported on 12 June that Cape Town city spokesperson Pieter Cronje said "no major incidents were reported and fans came out in true South African and Cape Town style and had a good jol [party]." "No major incidents" were reported at "any city venues, despite the fact that approximately 350 000 people visited the city centre," said Cronje. "Over 11 000 spectators used the MyCiTi shuttle to get to the stadium, while the City's fan walk also proved popular with 20 000 eager fans walking to the stadium on this route," he said.

Improved Transport Planned For Matches at Johannesburg's Soccer City -- SAPA reported on 12 June that World Cup and Johannesburg city officials have met to improve transport plans for matches at Soccer City after traffic congestion caused some fans to miss the opening match. World Cup organizing committee spokesman Rich Mkhondo said organizers faced transportation "challenges" because too many fans drove cars to Soccer City. Mkhondo said fans should use buses and trains, and he hoped to announce improvements before Soccer City hosts the Netherlands match against Denmark on 14 June.

Durban Municipality Says 'as Prepared as They Will Ever be' To Host Games -- e News Channel on 13 June reported that Durban will be hosting its first game between Germany and Australian, and Ethekewini officials say that they are "as prepared as they will ever be." German and Australian media houses have criticized preparations, but city officials believe that they are ready to prove them wrong. Officials have added that the Germans and Australians have not been critical, but rather have given "great comments."

South African Deputy, US Vice President Meet For Bilateral Talks -- SAPA reported on 12 June that South African deputy president Kgalema Motlanthe and United States vice president Joseph Biden met in Pretoria for bilateral talks. SAPA reported that the South African Presidency said, in a statement, that "it was the first high level meeting between the two countries after Presidents Jacob Zuma and Barack Obama met in April." The meeting focused on international challenges such as climate change and Haiti. On bilateral level, the talks centered around the development of the South African government's five priorities; education, health, rural development, job creation and crime. "The priorities identified by both South Africa and the US include good governance and democracy; respect for human rights; peace and stability as well as development through the creation of economic opportunities for all Africans," the statement said.

RSA Security Firms Report 'Dramatic' Increase in Requests for Bodyguards -- The Saturday Star Online reported on 12 June that close personal security firms and guarding companies have reported a dramatic spike in enquiries and requests from overseas visitors for protection while they are in South Africa. Garth Fochs, chief executive of Delta One International, says the company has seen an enormous number of requests in the past few months. Fochs said "we will be servicing big corporations, especially media companies, as well as very high-profile people. The concerns and reasons for wanting bodyguards are not political at all. It is, in fact, general crime. They are aware of media reports and the crime situation in the country and just want to be safe."

RSA: Major Security Operation Underway in Rustenburg Prior to US-England Game -- e News Channel on 12 June carried a report highlighting the security measures that had been put into place prior to the US-England game.

Vice President Biden Meets RSA's Motlanthe, Discuss Pretoria's 'Five Priorities' -- A SABC 3 report on 12 June highlighted US Vice President Biden's meeting with Deputy President Motlanthe during which they discussed Pretoria's five priorities.